In the Claims:

1. (Currently amended) A method for marking a laboratory item having an outside surface and made from glass comprising the steps of:

(a) selecting an area of the outside glass surface;

(b) applying a layer of a ceramic paint coating material having a coefficient of thermal expansion substantially the same as the coefficient of thermal expansion of the material comprising the item onto the total selected area; and

(c) imprinting indicia onto selected portions of the ceramic paint coating area with a laser emitting device to permanently provide a visible, machine readable code comprised of said indicia in said selected portions of said coating by effecting a visible color change to the selected portions of the coating comprising the indicia only, the remainder of said area being bonded to the glass to provide a visible contrast background to the selected portions.

2. (Previously presented) The process of Claim 1 wherein the indicia are selected from the group consisting of bar code, numeric code, alphabetic code, and combinations thereof.

3. (Currently amended) The process of Claim 1 wherein the ceramic paint coating is selected from the group consisting of lead ceramic paint and nonlead ceramic paint.

4. (Currently amended) The process of claim 1 wherein following the step of applying a layer of ceramic paint coating material to the area, said area is fixed prior to imprinteing selected portions of said area ~~includes firing of the ceramic coating material onto the selected area~~.

5. (Original) A product by the process of Claims 1, 2, 3 or 4.

6. (Previously presented) The process of claim 1 wherein the paint coating is a white ceramic non-lead paint.